

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

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A/ AID - MR. FOWLER (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 089076

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SENV, OCON

SUBJ: UNEP: SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR PROPOSED INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

1. DURING RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN OTTAWA, IT WAS AGREED THAT AN INFORMAL MEETING OF THE WEO'S PLUS JAPAN, POSSIBLY HOSTED BY THE CANADIANS, COULD USEFULLY BE HELD IN NEW YORK ON MAY 23 JUST PRIOR TO AN AD HOC TWO-DAY MEETING (BEING ARRANGED BY SWEDEN) OF MEMBERS OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL WITH MAURICE STRONG. TO PROVIDE A FOCUS FOR THE DISCUSSION, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE US WOULD PREPARE A PAPER IDENTIFYING SOME OF THE KEY ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE DURING THE JUNE 12-22 UNEP GC SESSION AND ON WHICH IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

2. THE FULL TEXT OF US PAPER FOLLOWS:

" SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE PROPOSED CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON UNEP, MAY 23, 1973

(A) DEFINITION OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: GA RES 2997 (XXVII) APPEARS TO ENVISAGE THAT THE GC WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO LAY DOWN BROAD POLICY GUIDANCE AND TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM, WITHIN WHICH THE EXDIR WOULD HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR APPROVING AND CARRYING OUT SPECIFIC PROJECTS. WHAT SHOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VIS- A- VIS THE COUNCIL?

(B) TERMS TO GOVERN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND
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TAL FUND: THERE MAY BE A DESIRE ON THE PART OF SOME COUNTRIES TO EARMARK THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND PURPOSES. WOULD THIS BE DESIRABLE OR SHOULD ALL CONTRIBUTIONS BE UNRESTRICTED?

(C) FINANCING ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES: THE CONCEPT OF FINANCING INCREASED EXPENDITURES " WHOLLY OR PARTLY" FROM THE FUND IS BASED ON THE PROPOSITION THAT COORDINATION IS THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE UNEP. SHOULD SUPPORT FOR ALL SIGNIFICANT NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS BE CONSIDERED AND APPROVED BY UNEP?

(D) RELATIONSHIP OF FUND TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: THERE MAY BE REQUESTS BY COUNTRIES FOR EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL

AREA. WHAT TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE FUND AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT BY THE FUND?

(E) COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: GIVEN THE FRAME OF REFERENCE OF ECB AS SET OUT IN PART IV OF RES 2997, WHAT ARE THE RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXDIR, THE GC AND GOVERNMENTS IN ACHIEVING A COORDINATED UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM?

(F) PROGRAM PRIORITIES: THE GC WILL BE FACED WITH THE NECESSITY FOR REACHING SOME DECISIONS ON PROGRAM PRIORITIES. AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WOULD BE USEFUL, BOTH ON IDENTIFICATION OF AND PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING SUCH PRIORITIES."

3. REQUEST USUN CONVEY US PAPER, PARA 2, TO WEO AND JAPAN MISSIONS. IN DOING SO, MISSION SHOULD NOTE OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT CANADA WILL SEPARATELY ESTABLISH AND COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER MISSIONS EXACT TIME AND PLACE OF PROPOSED MEETING. US LIST OF PROPOSED TOPICS IS NOT, OF COURSE, INTENDED TO BE EXHAUSTIVE. WE WOULD WELCOME THE VIEWS OF OTHERS ON ADDITIONAL TOPICS WHICH MIGHT BE DIS-

CUSSED. THE MISSION SHOULD NOTE THAT WE ARE COMMUNICAT-

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ING THE US LIST ALSO IN CAPITALS, ALTHOUGH WE ASSUME THAT SINCE THE MEETING IS PROPOSED FOR NEW YORK OTHERS WILL AGREE THAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WEO (AND JAPAN) MISSIONS IN NEW YORK.

4. FOR OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES: REQUEST TEXT US PAPER, PARA 2, BE CONVEYED TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS, NOTING THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF RESPONSES COULD BE COMMUNICATED VIA THEIR UN MISSIONS.

5. IN COMMUNICATING TEXT US PAPER ACTION ADDRESSEES MAY CONVEY US GENERAL POSITION ON PROPOSED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, NOTING THAT US VIEWS WILL BE ELABORATED IN PROPOSED MEETING AND MAY BE MODIFIED WHEN THE SECRETARIAT'S PAPERS FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING BECOME AVAILABLE. THE FOLLOWING PARAS ARE KEYED TO SUGGESTED TOPICS IN PARA 2 ABOVE:

(A) THE US BELIEVES THAT THE GC SHOULD IN GENERAL NOT ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS. IN OUR VIEW THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY UNDER RES 2997 OF THE EXDIR, ACTING WITHIN THE POLICY GUIDANCE LAID DOWN BY THE COUNCIL.

(B) THE US BELIEVES THAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND

SHOULD BE MADE WITHOUT RESTRICTION AS TO USE AND IN CURRENCIES READILY CONVERTIBLE. TIED OR EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD TEND TO UNDERMINE THE UNEP'S COORDINATING FUNCTION AND WOULD DISSIPATE THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

(C) AN OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE, IN THE US VIEW, IS THE DESIRABILITY OF PREVENTING THE UNCOORDINATED AND HAPHAZARD GROWTH OF THE BUDGETS OF THE OTHER UN AGENCIES, RIDING ON A CREST OF CONCERN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. THE COORDINATING ROLE OF UNEP WILL BE SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED IF UNEP IS BYPASSED AND EXPANDED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES ARE OBTAINED IN THE BUDGETS OF THE OTHER AGENCIES. WHILE US VIEWS ARE SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONSIDERATION, GENERALLY WE BELIEVE THAT ALL NEW ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES OR SIGNIFICANT EXPANSIONS OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO UNEP FOR SUPPORT FROM THE FUND.
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(D) THE US BELIEVES THAT SUPPORT FOR CAPITAL-INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SHOULD BE WHOLLY INELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT FROM THE FUND. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE US BELIEVES THAT TRAINING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE BUILDING UP OF COMPETENCE OF COUNTRIES TO DEAL WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS GENERALLY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR FUND SUPPORT.

(E) THE US BELIEVES THAT THE ANNUAL ECB REPORT SHOULD BECOME AN IMPORTANT MEANS FOR INSURING THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS OF THE UN FAMILY ARE PROPERLY COORDINATED. THE EXDIR HIMSELF SHOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR IDENTIFYING DEFICIENCIES IN THE UN SYSTEM WHICH IMPEDE THE SUCCESSFUL, COORDINATING CONDUCT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENTS BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO COORDINATE THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL POSITIONS IN THE SEPARATE AGENCIES WITH THEIR POSITIONS IN THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL.

(F) THE PROPOSED MEETING SHOULD PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROGRAM PRIORITIES IN THE LIGHT OF THE SECRETARIAT'S RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE BY THAT TIME.

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OTTAWA
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HELSINKI
PARIS

REYKJAVIK
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ROME
THE HAGUE
OSLO
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